



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

University of Toronto Japanese Drumming Ensemble and Klezmer Ensemble

Brian Katz, Kiyoshi Nagata, *directors*

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:30 pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park, Toronto

PROGRAM

Note: All arrangements by the ensemble unless otherwise noted.

Renshu Daiko

Seiichi Tanaka

Fuyu no Michi (Winter Road)

Shuichi Hidano

Ogi Matsuri Daiko

Yoshikazu Fujimoto

Sanmyaku Daiko

Kiyoshi Nagata

Iwai

Kiyoshi Nagata

Zoku (Tribe)

Leonard Eto

JAPANESE TAIKO ENSEMBLE PERFORMERS

Meghan Butcher, Willian Carriere, Eann Chao, Sherry Chen, Karan Dadlani, Julia Flagal, Anthony Gunadi, Sara Ko, Jamie Li, Carlan Pulkkinen, Jingren Sun, Cathy Wang, Wesley Wang, Daniel Zhou

intermission

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

As part of the Faculty's commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples' histories, truths and cultures. Visit indigenous.utoronto.ca to learn more.

Two Traditional Freylich's (up-tempo dances)

Araber Tanz ("Arabic Dance")

Trad/Naftule Brandwein (1884-1963)

Emmanuel Wong, *oboe*, Julian Przybyslawski, *violin*, Jordan Baldwin, *violin*

Der Shtiler Bulgar ("The Quiet Bulgar")

Abe Schwartz (1881-1963)

arr. Jonno Lightstone

Abe Schwartz Bulgar/Schwartz's Sirba

Abe Schwartz/Trad

A Gleyzl Vayn/Nokh A Gleyzl Vayn ("A Glass of Wine"/"Another Glass of Wine")

Trad. arr. Matthieu Savard

Andrew Neagoe, *clarinet*, Jacob-Burke Kleinman, *trumpet*

Chassidic Waltz/Flatbush Waltz

Trad/Andy Statman (b.1950)

Galitzianer Tantz ("Dance from Galicia")

Shloimke Beckerman (1884-1974)

arr. Brian Katz

Emmanuel Wong, *flute*, Ethan Whitlow, *trombone*, Lee Rosensweet, *piano*

Peace in the Streets

Trad/Adrienne Cooper (1946-2011)

Emmanuel Wong, *leading vocal*

KLEZMER ENSEMBLE PERFORMERS

Jordan Baldwin, *violin*

Matthew Graystone, *french horn*, *hand drum*

Jacob-Burke Kleinman, *trumpet*, *drums*

Andrew Neagoe, *clarinet*

Julian Przybyslawski, *violin*

Lee Rosensweet, *piano*, *hand drum*

Matthieu Savard, *bass*

Ethan Whitlow, *trombone*

Emmanuel Wong, *flute*, *oboe*, *voice*

PROGRAM NOTES

Renshu Daiko, composed by Seiichi Tanaka

Renshū Daiko literally means 'practice song'. Played in rounds, this piece incorporates many traditional patterns and techniques found in Japanese taiko music.

Fuyu no Michi (Winter Road), composed by Shuichi Hidano

This is a modern composition by virtuoso taiko player Shuichi Hidano. In this piece, two groups of performers duel each other with interweaving rhythms.

Ogi Matsuri Daiko, composed by Yoshikazu Fujimoto

Ogi is a small port town located on the southern part of Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture. The local villagers play this piece during Ogi Matsuri (festival) every August on taiko attached to large mobile carts.

Sanmyaku Daiko, composed by Kiyoshi Nagata

Literally meaning 'Mountain Range', this piece envisions three groups of drummers from a distance, calling back and forth to each other from the mountaintops.

Iwai composed, by Kiyoshi Nagata

Iwai or 'celebrate' in Japanese, is an upbeat piece depicting the lively scene of a Japanese festival (matsuri). The drummers shout "Yoisho" which is a call of encouragement when the portable shrine is paraded around the festival.

Zoku (Tribe), composed by Leonard Eto

This piece was composed by Leonard Eto (former artistic director of the renowned Kodo drummers) in 1989. It has since become a popular and iconic performance piece for many taiko groups throughout Japan and across the world.

Klezmer, the soul music of Eastern-European Jewry, can be considered an early form of "fusion," an amalgamation of Eastern-European based folk tunes/musical dialects mixed with indigenous Jewish sounds, particularly those rooted in the Chassidic tradition. Nigunim, the wordless chant melodies of the Chassidim inform many klezmer pieces, as do the "yearning" melismatic outpourings of the synagogue chazzan, cantor. When klezmer arrived in America it again took new turns, incorporating aspects of American popular song as well as jazz. The University of Toronto Klezmer ensemble performs both old and new world klezmer, embracing a living tradition that continues to expand. In past years, the U of T Klezmer Ensemble have performed at the Ashkenaz Festival, The Four Seasons Opera Centre, and the Glenn Gould Theatre.

BIOGRAPHY

Kiyoshi Nagata, taiko ensemble director

Kiyoshi Nagata is the founder and artistic director of Nagata Shachu, Canada's preeminent professional taiko group. Formed in 1998, Kiyoshi has led the ensemble in tours across North America and Italy in addition to major engagements in Lebanon and Mexico. As a performer, he has collaborated with both local and international artists as part of the group's annual three-concert season, and his original compositions have been featured on the ensemble's numerous CDs and DVDs.

Kiyoshi has been performing taiko in a career that spans four decades and has taught taiko at the U of T Faculty of Music since 1998. He also taught a public taiko course at the Royal Conservatory of Music from 2003 to 2011, and helped to found two community taiko groups in Burlington and Toronto. He is regularly invited by universities and taiko groups to present workshops and lectures. As a solo artist, he has composed and performed taiko music for dance, theatre, film and radio and continues to collaborate with artists from all genres of music including traditional Japanese instrumentalists.

Brian Katz is an internationally acclaimed guitarist, pianist, recording artist, improviser, composer, music educator, and klezmer at large! As a performer and composer, he is noted for bringing classical and 'world' music influences to modern jazz and Jewish music, and is highly regarded as a "free" (open) improviser, where he blends many of his influences into coherent musical statements. His klezmer recording *Collected Stories*, with virtuoso clarinetist, Martin van de Ven, inspired one reviewer to write, "they play the stars down from heaven," and of Brian's solo guitar recording, *Leaves Will Speak*, noted European music critic Alexander Schmitz wrote, "If you want music that speaks—here it is."